



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019

No. 195

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 6, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY G. BROWN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, thank You for giving us another day.

We thank You on this day for the example of St. Nicholas, who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned, gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all.

May all who work here in the people's House strive to imitate him by putting You first in all we do.

Give us the courage, love, and strength of St. Nicholas so that, like him, we may serve You through our service to all our brothers and sisters.

On this eve of December 7, may we be mindful of the great sacrifices of many of our ancestors who gave their last full measure while serving in our Armed Forces in defense of our Nation. We ask You, O Lord, to bless those who serve now and keep them from harm.

May all that we do be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate our very own Lina Hidalgo, the county judge and chief executive of Harris County, for being named to the Forbes 30 Under 30.

A proud immigrant, born in Colombia, and the product of Houston-area public schools, Lina was the first in her family to graduate from college.

Lina went on to serve as a medical interpreter at the Texas Medical Center and has supported immigrants throughout her career.

Last year, Lina became the first woman and the first minority ever elected county judge in Harris County.

Lina is an inspiration to everyone in the community and has dedicated her life to serving the public and promoting equality.

Lina is an example of how immigrants make America great, with her hard work and contributions to her county and her country. She is the product of the American Dream, an American value we must preserve so that everyone who turns to America for an opportunity to achieve a better life can achieve it.

I am so proud to congratulate my friend, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

"Felicitades y si se puede." Congratulations, and, yes, you can.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9297

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS DURING DEPLOYMENT AND WHEN THEY RETURN HOME

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise to support H.R. 5314, the Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act, with my colleague, Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK.

Our Nation's veterans deserve our support while they are deployed and when they return home, and one of the best ways to do that is to prepare them for the workforce outside of the military.

Our servicemembers have attained incredible skills during their service. Sadly, when they return to civilian life, finding a good-paying, family-sustaining job may be difficult.

H.R. 5314 helps streamline the process of attaining apprenticeships and reduces roadblocks for our veterans. The bill does four major things:

H.R. 5314 ensures programs are equipped to complete the expedited VA process for registered apprenticeships.

It clarifies that veterans are eligible for advanced placement and commensurate wage increases;

The bill instructs apprenticeship programs to account for a participant's competencies and prior experiences, including those gained during military service; and

H.R. 5314 aims to improve coordination between the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am proud to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, when we go home, our constituents ask us: What is the Congress doing? What has the Congress done?

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly to let the American people know that Democrats are fighting for the people. In 2019, alone, we have passed nearly 400 bills, over 275 of which were bipartisan.

To name a few: a once-in-a-generation gun violence prevention bill, raising the minimum wage, protecting people with preexisting healthcare conditions, and keeping the United States in the Paris climate agreement.

I am proud that I have authored two bills that have passed the House: one to make home buying more affordable—we have a problem with affordable housing—another to make the financial system more diverse and inclusive, H.R. 281. In addition, I have three bills that were adopted as amendments into legislation.

Unfortunately, 300 bills are over there with Mr. McCONNELL. Let's get

them out of the graveyard so they don't die on the vine.

SOUND THE ALARM ABOUT THE SALT DEDUCTION CAP

(Mr. GOTTHEIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about an issue that is badly impacting my constituents in the Fifth District of New Jersey every single day: the cap on the State and local tax deduction, which led to a major tax hike on my district imposed by the "moocher States."

Right now, as congressional leadership considers year-end legislation in these last days of the year, why would they not fix the biggest tax problem of them all: the State and local tax deduction?

It is time to end double taxation.

I released this report last week on the impact of the SALT cap on the Garden State. It is clear, taxes in north Jersey are through the roof. People are leaving the State in droves, and our home values are plummeting because of the end of the State and local tax deduction.

It is time to end that cap, and I am calling on Congress—Democrats and Republicans—to come together, to reinstate the SALT deduction this year and give a real tax cut to north Jersey.

This Congress, I introduced bipartisan legislation to fully reinstate SALT, and I helped lead not one, but two bipartisan resolutions overturning the harmful Treasury regulations that kept us from deducting charitable contributions on our Federal taxes.

We have to fix this and reinstate SALT this year and cut taxes for New Jersey families, first responders, and small businesses that are the backbone of our community. We simply can't afford to delay and prop up the moocher States anymore.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONCIO VEGA CORREA

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leoncio Vega Correa, son of Luis Correa Sotelo and Magdalena Correa. He passed away November 24, surrounded by his loved ones.

Leo was the hardworking child of immigrants. He was born in Watts, California, on April 24, 1926, but his family spent much of his childhood living in Zacatecas, Mexico.

Leo lived a hard life but an honest life. The devastation of the Great Depression followed him and his family from the United States to Mexico.

He never received a formal education. He worked as a migrant farmworker across the country, following harvests.

Despite all his hardships, Leo was a gentle giant and never met a stranger.

He was always ready to give a hug, a smile, a dollar, a meal, or even the shirt off of his back. He would always tell me: "Good deeds always come back to you." And he was known by his saying, "pura vida."

Leo lived a hard, great life. We celebrate his life today, and he will be missed by the community and his family.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 741, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 741, the amendments to the resolution and the preamble recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, printed in the resolution, modified by the amendments printed in part B of House Report 116-322, are adopted and the resolution, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H. RES. 326

Whereas the special relationship between the United States and Israel is rooted in shared national security interests and shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the United States has worked for decades to strengthen Israel's security through assistance and cooperation on defense and intelligence matters in order to enhance the safety of United States and Israeli citizens; including by finalizing in 2016 under the Obama Administration, a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming the United States' commitment to annual military assistance and cooperative missile defense programs, which is in the national interests of both countries;

Whereas the United States remains unwavering in its commitment to help Israel address the myriad challenges it faces, including terrorism, regional instability, horrifying violence in neighboring states, and hostile regimes that call for its destruction;

Whereas the United States, under Presidents of both parties, has provided bilateral and multilateral foreign assistance to promote the security, stability, and the humanitarian well-being of Palestinians;

Whereas the United States has long sought a just, stable, and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination and offers Israel long-term security and full normalization with its neighbors;

Whereas for more than 20 years, Presidents of the United States from both political parties and Israeli Prime Ministers have supported reaching a two-state solution that establishes a Palestinian state coexisting side by side with Israel in peace and security;

Whereas for more than 20 years, Presidents of the United States from both political parties